

SUMMARY:

This bill abolishes the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. The Washington State Historical Society is the Commission's successor for purposes of: any unfinished projects of the Commission; making any required reports on operations and spending; and taking permanent custody of all property and funds of the Commission. The bill repeals former statutes relating to the Commission.

This bill contains an emergency clause.

Senate:	43	0	Effective: May 4, 1977
House: (a)	59	0	C 17 L 77 1st ex. sess.
S. Concur:	39	0	

SSB 2032

SPONSORS: Committee on Constitution and Elections
(Originally sponsored by Senators Beck and North)

COMMITTEE: Constitution and Elections

Establishing procedures for the nomination of minor party and independent candidates.

ISSUE:

Minor party candidates are presently nominated at party conventions held on primary day. In order for its nominees to appear on the general election ballot, a minor party must obtain the signatures of 100 registered voters (or 10 registered voters from each Congressional district) present at the convention. Persons who participate in minor party conventions are prohibited from voting in the primary.

SUMMARY:

The bill provides a two-step procedure for the nomination of minor party and independent candidates to the general election ballot.

Nominating convention

First, minor party (or independent candidate) must hold a convention on the last Saturday immediately preceding the first day for filing declarations of candidacy. In order to nominate candidates, the convention must be attended by a number of registered voters from each election jurisdiction from which nominations are to be made, equal to one for every 10,000 votes cast in that jurisdiction in the last presidential election or 25 such voters, whichever number is greater. Thus, to nominate a candidate for governor approximately 160 persons must attend the convention. To nominate a state senator, 25 registered voters from that district must attend. A minor party may hold more than one convention provided only one candidate is nominated for any one office or position.

Primary election

The nominees of the minor political parties and any independent candidates who have met the convention requirements will appear on the primary election ballot. Persons who participate in a nominating convention are free to vote for all offices and measures on the primary ballot. Major party, minor party and independent candidates who receive at least one percent of the votes cast in the primary for the office sought will appear on the general election ballot.

If at least one minor party nominee for president, vice president, U.S. senator or a statewide office receives five percent of the total votes cast at a state general election, then that party becomes a "major" party and does not have to nominate by convention.

A vacancy caused by the death or disqualification of any candidate or nominee of a major or minor political party may be filled at any time up to the election.

This bill contains an emergency clause.

Senate: (a)	31	12	Effective: June 30, 1977
House: (a)	58	28	C 329 L 77 1st ex. sess.
H. Conf.			
Rpt. Adopt:	63	22	
S. Conf.			
Rpt Adopt:	30	3	

SSB 2034

SPONSORS: Committee on Constitution and Elections
(Originally sponsored by Senator Beck)

COMMITTEE: Constitution and Elections

Making various changes in election laws.

ISSUE:General Election Law Revision

SSB 2034 is in part the product of an interim legislative task force established to study ways of improving the state's election law. Two broad problem areas were studied by the group: (1) clarification and standardization of the provisions of Chapter 29.30 RCW relating to ballot format and preparation as they apply to the three voting systems (paper ballots, punch card, voting machines); and (2) the security and accuracy of the punch card voting system.

Voter Registration

Under present law persons who wish to register to vote must apply in person at one of the registration locations designated by the county auditor. Critics of the present system believe that it places an unnecessary burden on certain groups who wish to register, such as persons confined by illness or infirmity, persons who work inconvenient shifts, and persons who live in sparsely populated areas.